

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

An inventive method and apparatus support quality of service provisioning for a given mobile terminal without requiring changes to established interfaces for the general packet radio service network by assigning a temporary logical link identifier (TLLI) in a manner that implicitly reflects a QoS rating for a mobile terminal. In one embodiment of the present invention, a serving GPRS support node (SGSN) assigns a temporary logical link identifier (TLLI) within a first range for a first QoS rating and within a second range for a second QoS rating. Alternatively, the SGSN assigns a temporary logical link identifier having an even numerical value for a first QoS rating and an odd numerical value for a second QoS rating. Upon receiving a TLLI value, a base station and the corresponding mobile terminal may both evaluate the TLLI number to determine the assigned QoS rating for the mobile and to allocate communication resources in a corresponding manner. As an additional aspect of the present invention, the mobile terminal transmits its received TLLI number to a base station whenever it requests system resources and whenever it registers its presence with a base station.

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